

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: NASA EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITE (LANDSAT) INVESTI-
GATIONS PROGRAM

1. ON FEBRUARY 12, 1975 NASA FORWARDED PROVISIONS FOR PARTICIPATION TO COMISION NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES ESPACIALES FOR GOA SIGNATURE IN ORDER TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HUMBERTO GARUTI TO PARTICIPATE AS A PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IN LANDSAT PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO GOA, PROVISIONS WERE LOST IN MAIL, AND NASA AGAIN FORWARDED MAY 1975. HOWEVER, SIGNED DOCUMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BY NASA. PROVISIONS FORWARDED IN RESPONSE TO GOA INVESTIGATION PROPOSAL TO NASA.

2. TIME IS BECOMING IMPORTANT FACTOR. IN ESSENCE, NASA IS HOLDING OPEN A SEGMENT OF ITS SATELLITE DATA GATHERING CAPACITY PENDING ARGENTINA'S DECISION TO USE IT. HOWEVER,
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SINCE FORWARDING OF PROVISIONS, ONE OF TWO ONBOARD TAPE

RECORDERS HAS FAILED, SEVERELY LIMITING COVERAGE CAPABILITY IN AREAS OUTSIDE RANGE OF EXISTING GROUND RECEIVING STATIONS. (APPROX. 50 PERCENT GARUTI TEST SITES IN SUCH AN AREA.) MOREOVER, UNANTICIPATED HEAVY DEMANDS ON REMAINING TAPE RECORDER HAVE REDUCED EXPECTED LIFETIME. TO MAXIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF COVERAGE FOR TEST SITES, PROVISIONS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO NASA ASAP.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TO GOA, AND ADVISE NASA WHETHER THERE IS POSITIVE INDICATION OF INTENT TO SIGN AND WHEN RECEIPT MIGHT BE EXPECTED.

4. REQUEST VERBAL EXPLANATION OF FOLLOWING TO GOA: BECAUSE OF TAPE RECORDER CONSTRAINTS AND OTHER USER DEMANDS, NASA CANNOT RESERVE SATELLITE TIME FOR ARGENTINA INDEFINITELY IN ABSENCE OF RECEIPT OF SIGNED PROVISIONS. REQUEST RESPONSE FROM GOA IN SIX WEEKS. IF SIGNED PROVISIONS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN TWO MONTHS, NASA WILL BE FORCED TO CONCLUDE GOA NO LONGER INTERESTED IN PURSUING INVESTIGATION AND WILL CONSIDER MATTER CLOSED. SISCO

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